

CLAIMS

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1. A vehicle detector and classifier comprising at least one electrically conductive loop arranged in a road surface, characterised in that the or each loop is arranged substantially in a plane perpendicular to the road surface.

2. A detector according to claim 1, characterised in that said plane extends across the road.

3. A detector according to claim 1, characterised in that said plane extends parallel to the axis of the road, i.e. in 10 the direction of travel.

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4. A detector according to any preceding claim, characterised in that a plurality of loops are arranged in a line in a single slot cut into the road surface.

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5. A detector according to claim 4, characterised in that 15 at least one active electronic component is located in the slot adjacent to each loop.

6. A detector according to claim 5, characterised in that the components are mounted on very small hybrid or thick-film circuits at regular intervals.

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20 7. A detector according to any preceding claim, wherein the loop, or all of the loops, are encapsulated in a semi-rigid enclosure.

8. A detector according to any preceding claim, wherein the or each loop is substantially rectangular.

25 9. A detector according to any preceding claim, wherein the or each loop comprises a plurality of turns.

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10. A detector according to any preceding claim, including an inductive loop arranged substantially in the plane of the road surface.

11. A detector according to claim 10, including means for superposing a result obtained from the loop arranged substantially in the plane of the road surface and a result obtained from the or each loop arranged substantially in a plane perpendicular to the road surface, and means for displaying the superposed results.